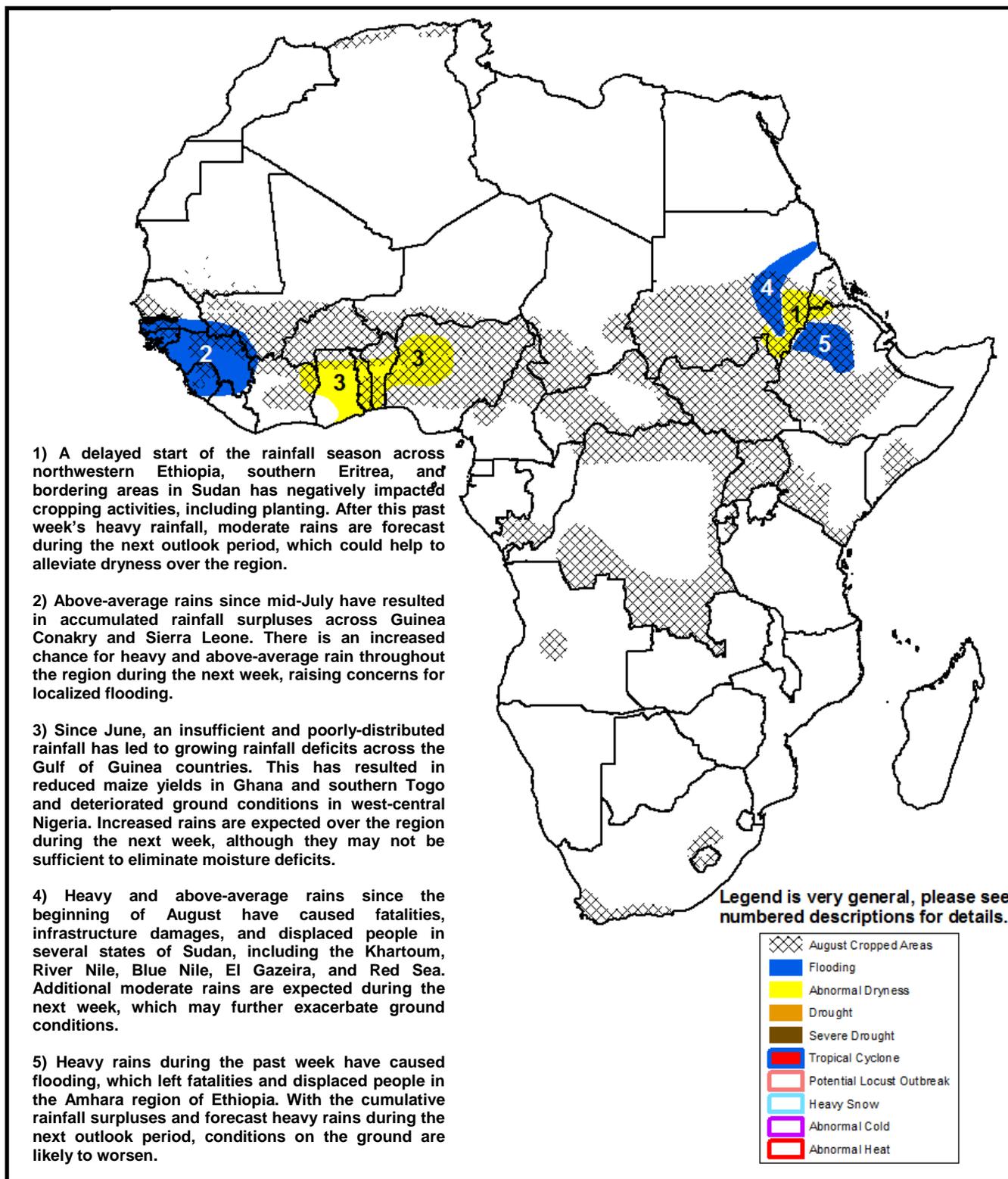




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 22 – August 28, 2013

- A favorable distribution of rainfall was observed across a wide portion of Africa during the past week.



Widespread, heavy rains observed in West Africa.

A robust distribution of rainfall was observed across much of West Africa during the past week. While heavy rains continued in southern Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, and western Mali, high rainfall amounts were also recorded throughout southern Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, northern Nigeria, and southern Chad (**Figure 1**). The continued, heavy and above-average rains over the past few weeks have increased rainfall surpluses over the Sahelian-Sudanian region of West Africa over the past thirty days. In contrast, suppressed rains were again registered along much of the Gulf of Guinea during the past seven days, increasing thirty-day rainfall deficits throughout Liberia, southern Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. Although an increase in rain is climatologically expected during the next month, the ongoing dryness has already negatively impacted cropping activities over many local areas of Ghana and Togo, likely resulting in reduced yields.

An analysis of the number of rain days anomaly over the past thirty days over West Africa displays a dipole pattern, with above-average number of rain days across the Sahel and below-average rainfall frequency along the Gulf of Guinea (**Figure 2**). During early August, the Intertropical Front (ITF) experienced a significant advancement northward, which brought above-average rain over many countries, including Mauritania and Mali. Conversely, the deflection and divergence of monsoonal flow resulted in suppressed rains along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the next week, there is an increased chance for heavy rains to continue across far western West Africa as an anomalous low-level cyclonic circulation is forecast to develop over the region. Meanwhile, abundant (> 50 mm) rains are expected throughout the Sudanian-Guinean region, including the northern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. Light rains are, however, again forecast along the Gulf of Guinea.

Increased rains observed in eastern Africa.

During the past week, enhanced rains fell over eastern Africa, with rainfall in excess of 75 mm, which has caused flooding, fatalities, and displaced people over the Amhara region of northern Ethiopia. Abundant rains were also recorded over many areas, including northern South Sudan, southern and eastern Sudan, northwestern Somalia, and Eritrea (**Figure 3**). Meanwhile, light to moderate rains were observed elsewhere. Although the increase in rainfall over the past three weeks has reduced thirty-day rainfall deficits over much of the dry portions of the Greater Horn of Africa, the prolonged delay of the onset of the rainy season has led to large seasonal deficits and negatively impacted cropping activities over local areas of the region. During the next week, light to moderate rains are forecast in southeastern Sudan, while heavy rains are expected to continue over Ethiopia, Eritrea, and northwestern South Sudan. The continuation of heavy rains over the highlands of Ethiopia heightens the risks for flooding over north-central Ethiopia and many downstream locations in Sudan.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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